



AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A probe system ~~adapted for use in a channel director~~ for monitoring a network, comprising: ~~at least one probe being capable of being associated with at least one port associated with said channel director; a mechanism for copying all ingress and egress data to/from a fiber channel port to the said probe for~~
 - a. a plurality of devices on the network;
 - b. one or more switches;
 - c. a probe;
 - d. a plurality of mirrored ports, each mirrored port contained in one said switch and providing two-way transmission of data between two said devices;
 - e. a mechanism mirroring all such transmitted data to the probe continuously; and
 - f. an analysis device, connected to the probe, that performs an integrated analysis of the data received by the probe from all mirrored ports and takes an action in response to the analysis.
2. (original) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network is a storage area network.
3. (currently amended) A probe system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said storage area network includes a ~~fiber channel~~ Fibre Channel architecture.
4. (canceled)
5. (original) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said probe is a software device.
6. (original) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said probe is a

hardware device.

7. (original) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mechanism reflects an optical energy signal on the transmit side of the port, wherein said optical energy is transmitted to said probe.
8. (currently amended) A probe system as claimed in claim 7, wherein ~~approximately~~ 10 percent of said optical energy signal is reflected.
9. (original) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mechanism reflects an optical energy signal on the receive side of a port, wherein said optical energy is transmitted to said probe.
10. (currently amended) A probe system as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~approximately~~ 10 percent of said optical energy signal is reflected.
11. (currently amended) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mechanism is an external ~~fibre channel~~ Fibre Channel patch panel that replicates data for a given ~~fibre channel~~ Fibre Channel port to said ~~port~~ probe.
12. (currently amended) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mechanism accomplishes an internal replication of data within a switch to ~~[[a]]~~ said probe.
13. (original) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mechanism accomplishes an internal replication of data within a director to said probe.
14. (currently amended) A method for monitoring data ~~ingress and egress~~ transmissions in a storage area network comprising: providing at least one probe ~~on at least one port to monitor a plurality of mirrored ports~~ associated with a

device in said storage area network; mirroring continuously a portion of ~~a signal ingress and/or egress~~ the data transmissions associated with said ~~port~~ mirrored ports using said ~~[[probe]]~~ probes to a monitoring location; obtaining information regarding said data ingress and/or data egress obtained using said mirrored signal transmissions; and generating port-level and device-level statistics from said information.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[15]]~~ 14, further comprising viewing said statistics.

17. (currently amended) A method for monitoring data ~~ingress and egress~~ transmissions in a storage area network comprising: ~~means for~~ monitoring continuously data on at least one port associated with a device in said storage area network; ~~means for~~ mirroring a portion of the ~~signal ingress and/or egress~~ data transmissions associated with said port using said probe to a monitoring location; ~~means for~~ and obtaining information regarding said data ingress and/or egress obtained using said mirrored signal transmissions; analyzing the content of said data transmissions; and ~~generating statistics triggering an alert based on the information provided by said means for detecting~~ analysis.

18—20. (canceled)

21. (new) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said integrated analysis makes one of the following determinations regarding traffic on the network:

- (i) the percentage of traffic generated by each device;
- (ii) the percentage of traffic attributable to read and write transactions, respectively, by the devices;
- (iii) whether service on the network has been degraded, and which devices are contributing to such degradation; and
- (iv) which devices, if any, are experiencing a network availability problem.

22. (new) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein performance of said integrated analysis requires examination of the content of the data being transmitted between devices.
23. (new) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein performance of said integrated analysis requires data from a plurality of ports to be mirrored continuously.
24. (new) A probe system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said action is taken from a group including:
 - (i) creating a report;
 - (ii) displaying a graph or chart;
 - (iii) triggering an alert;
 - (iv) rerouting network traffic;
 - (v) shutting down a device;
 - (vi) starting up a device;
 - (vii) sending a command in digital form to a device; and
 - (viii) making an entry in a database.